

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 15, 2021 8:00 AM

Printed on: April 21, 2021 5:10 PM

COMMENTS FOR: HB 3970

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Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes on HB 3970

Specifically articulating the method by which early ballots voted by mail are authenticated, with poll watchers able to be present, helps to make our system less vulnerable to errors, whether intentional or unintentional.

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Tom Thomas

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Republicans, PLEASE STOP YOUR WAR AGAINST DEMOCRACY. Texas is already one of the most voter-suppressed states in the U.S. Making voting even more difficult is ultimately self-defeating and not at all American.

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Kirk Pate

Self

Flatonia, TX

Presence of a so called "watcher" at the central counting station is bureaucratic, useless, and superfluous. A ballot board committee consisting of several trained individuals is entirely competent to execute the verification process of mailed in ballots. A representative appointed by the county chairs to observe the ballot scanning process is equally bureaucratic, useless, and superfluous. A resolutions board of numerous trained people of both parties already jointly reviews and takes appropriate action on damaged or over-voted ballots. Reiteration of this in this bill is superfluous. A "watcher" who is untrained and totally ignorant of what he or she may be observing of the ballot scanning process is a nuisance and superfluous. As a tabulation supervisor, I would never want a "watcher" observing me while I enter scanner security codes into the DS450 during ballot scanning operations!

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shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Please vote yes. Mail in ballots is area most susceptible for fraud. This bills tightens up that area.

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Charles Wiley

Self

Alice, TX

Please Vote yes! Everything in this bill ensures Election Integrity. Comparing the signature of the voter when he/she originally registered is critical to making sure the person who applied for the written ballot is the same person who is eligible to vote. This also ensures that poll watchers have the right to watch processes that have not previously been addressed.

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Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

I vote yes, we need an error proof system in early voting counting. And proper protocols in accepting only legitimate ballots

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Kathryn Gordon

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Yes

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Larry Ringler

Self

Portland, TX

Vote YES. It's vital to confirm that the voter's signature when they registered matches the signature of the person who applied for a written ballot. It also gives poll workers the right to observe processes that have not been addressed.

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Natalie Kinard

self

Kyle, TX

There was no fraud in the 2020 election. If the intent is to make it harder for Texans to vote, the motion is counter to your oaths of office which states you serve ALL Texans, not just those whose voices you agree with.

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Jessie Carlson

Self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes! Everything in this bill ensures Election Integrity. Checking the signature of the voter when they originally registered is crucial to making sure the person who applied for the written ballot is the same person who is eligible to vote. This also ensures that poll watchers have the right to watch processes that have not previously been addressed.

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Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC

ALICE, TX

I, Amanda Sue Friedeck (Jim Wells County ) am in favor of HB 3970. This is so that our elections are transparent, accountable and fair.

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DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. Although I would prefer to get rid of 90% of mail-in ballot voting, the 2nd best thing is ensuring is is being done legally.

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Dennis Botkin

John Birch

Richardson, TX

HB 3970 I am asking you to support and to approve this critical Legislation. The increase in election Watchers oversight in any and all validation, verification of absentee balloting, early voting and Election Day procedures increases the integrity of the procedures and the intent of the Voters of the State of Texas.

Thank you kindly

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Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

Self

Galveston, TX

This bill is a really important measure. Among other things it clarifies the responsibilities of the Early Voting Ballot Board and Central Count.

- For example it prohibits the Early Voting Ballot Board from opening the secrecy envelopes of ballots by mail. We want to guard against any possibility that members of the Board can connect a voter to how he or she voted and because they have the carrier envelopes with the voters name, VUID number and such, we don't want them opening up the envelope that contains the voter's ballot.
- This bill also makes it crystal clear both the Presiding Judge and Alternate Judge shall be present and witnessing when absentee ballots are being scanned for electronic counting. We don't want county election officials doing this on their own.
- Additionally, if ballots need to be duplicated, we want the people from both parties in Central Count doing that duplication, not county election officials.
- And finally, when an over vote is discovered we want the people from both political parties deciding the intent of the voter, again, not county election officials.

All of these provisions are to ensure integrity of the election process and fair and equal treatment for each person's vote.

- The other thing this bill does is to ensure that poll watchers have full access to what is going on in both the EVBB and in Central Count. They need to be able to determine what decisions are being made and how that is being done. No cordoning off poll watchers where they cannot witness what is happening.

- I encourage the Committee to pass this bill and move it to the floor for swift enactment.

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Kimberly Bridges Young

Self

Crp Christi, TX

Vote yes!

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Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I strongly support this bill. Secrecy of the ballot must be preserved until counting and all counting must be done concurrently. Support the scanning function with observation by outside representatives of each major party.

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Monica Carson

self

Bastrop, TX

Please support this bill that authorizes election watchers to monitor all mail in ballot scanning and counting activities.

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SHARON EDWARDS, MRS

TRAVIS CO CHAIR, PCT 233

AUSTIN, TX

I have been present several times for the counting of early voting. We were given a time that would be done; upon arrival we were told they had already done the counting or other excuses. This must be corrected.

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Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Every time the ballots are out of a secure area, locked and guarded, poll watchers should be there. No one should have the ability to be with unattended ballots. Unattended ballots mean ballots that do not have poll watchers from each party. No state or local bureaucrat is considered "not political."

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Sandra Stokes

Self Retired

Smithville, TX

This bill would certainly cut down bad behavior by election workers who otherwise are not held accountable. Now, it is very hard to have proof of corruption in the scanning and counting of ballots even if you are there personally to oversee the work.

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Tanya Robertson, Senate District 11 SREC

Self

Taylor Lake Village, TX

IN FAVOR of HB 3970 to ensure election integrity in Texas.

I urge Chairman Cain to bring this bill up for a vote in committee and for committee members to vote it favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your time!

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Carmalene Churba

Self

Austin, TX

Voter ballots collected by mail need to be signature verified. Legal ground for early voting by mail. The voter is registered to vote and the address is a legal address and voter is a verified resident. The ballot should be listed separately on the poll list and verify the voter is living. There should also be poll watchers from each party observing the process.

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Denise Gordon

Self/ TX Dem Veterans

Round Rock, TX

There is no need to expand the role of Poll Watchers during Ballot Board efforts. DEFEAT this Bill, it is unnecessary!

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JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, speaking for the organization:

Grassroots America strongly supports HB 3970.

We strongly support Rep. Vasut's bill that authorizes election watchers to monitor all mail-in ballot scanning and counting activities. We need more transparency in elections - more eyes on the entire process. This will help restore a measure of confidence in elections.

We urge the House Public Affairs Committee to pass this bill out of committee.

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